

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

All of the claims other than the allowed Claims 24, 26 and 27 have been cancelled.

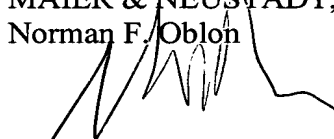
Claim 24 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error therein.

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed herewith.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
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